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## REPORT 10,000 FAMILIES EVICTED FROM BUDAPEST

On 21 May, Budapest awoke to the most horrible act of Communist terror. The so-called gray policemen of the Ministry of the Interior appeared throughout the city and delivered eviction notices to tenants in almost every building. The notices had to be complied with within 24 hours. The policemen said that the head of a family was allowed to take a bag weighing 80 kilograms and every additional member of the family 40 kilograms. The furnishings were to be left behind intact and in good condition. The Communist government ordered the eviction of 10,000 families from Budapest.

This event caused a terrible panic. At first, it was believed that only those who had belonged to the unfortunate group of enemies of the working class were affected. This group had a very hard life even up to then. Its members could not obtain employment and food ration cards and were exposed to slander and police brutality. The panic became complete, however, when it was learned that there were party members, trade-union members, and young workers among those evicted. It is estimated that several hundred persons committed suicide.

Several demonstrations were staged by those left behind. There were various rumors as to where the evictees were being taken. According to some, the group was to be taken to the USSR. This was substantiated by the fact that there were young men in the group whom the system admittedly could not spare. The first trains left for the city of Szolnok, where a large concentration camp had been established. In other cases, deportees were allowed to obtain shelter from relatives and friends in the country. The deportations have not yet been completed.

Why did the government take measures such as these? The 22 May session of the party's Central Committee supplies the answer. Room has to be made in Budapest for elements educated by the party. In addition, the government can answer growing discontent throughout the country only with a campaign of terror.

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